

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NAPLES 00053 121520Z

ACTION EB-08

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FM AMCONGEN NAPLES IT

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 5849

INFO AMEMB ROME IT

AMCONSUL FLORENCE IT 82

UNCLAS NAPLES 53

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, IT

SUBJECT: CUSTOMS CLEARANCE PROBLEM

STATE PASS COMMERCE

1. CONSULATE GENERAL HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TITAN INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION, 777 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK AND BY THEIR IMPORT AGENT (INTERTRADE CO. OF NAPLES) REGARDING PROBLEM AT THE LIVORNO CUSTOMS. AN IMPORTATION OF TIN PLATE FROM ABOVE FIRM HAS BEEN HELD UP BY OFFICIALS (AND HEAVY DEMURRAGE AND OTHER CHARGES POSSIBLY INCURRED) BECAUSE THE "NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY" WHICH ISSUED CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN IS NOT RECOGNIZED BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN ITALY. LIVORNO CUSTOMS INFOPMED EXPORTER, IMPORT AGENT AND THE CONSULATE IN FLORENCE THAT ONLY THE NEKW YORK

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK, INC. AND THE ITALY-AMERICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ARE RECOGNIZED BY THE GOI AS EMPOWERED TO ISSUE CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN. LIVORNO CUSTOMS OFFICIALS WERE UNIMPRESSED BY DECLARATIONS THAT THE NEW/ YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, INC. HAD MERGED IN 1973 TO FORM THE NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, SINCE THEY HAVE NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE FROM FINANCE MINISTRY. INVOLVED FIRMS CONTENTION THAT CUSTOMS OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTING CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN ISSUED BY THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SINCE 1973 WITHOUT QUESTION ALSO FAILED TO CONVINCE.

2. WE ARE ADVISING U.S. FIRM TO REQUEST N.Y. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY TO CLARIFY ITS STATUS WITH ITALIAN CONSULATE IF IT WISHES TO BE RECOGNIZED BY GOI FOR CERTIFICATE OF ORIGIN PURPOSES. PROCESS MAY BE LENGTHY AS THE CUSTOMS PERSONNEL STRICTLY APPLYING REGULATIONS MAY REFUSE RECOGNIZE CHANGE PENDING OFFICIAL NOTIFI-

CATION BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. IN MEANTIME FIRMS WOULD BE
WELL ADVISED TO USE ITALY-AMERICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR ISSUANCE
OF CERTIFICATES OF ORIGIN.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE CONFIRM STATUS OF NEW YORK CHAMBER OF

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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AS A RECOGNIZED CHAMBER OF COMMERCE UNDER
THE LAWS OF NEW YORK AND RESULTING FROM THE MERGER OF THE ABOVE
MENTIONED ORGANIZATIONS. DEGAN

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